

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS COUNCIL OF CLARK COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 12, 2005 MEETING

MINUTES

(THIS WAS A JOINT MEETING – VANCOUVER CITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS AND CLARK COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS)

Those in attendance (partial list only) – Ron Price, Pleasant Highlands, Doug Ballou, NE Hazel Dell; Anne McErneny, Shumway; Dale Erickson, Bella Vista; Bob Higbie, CC Long Range Planning; Richard Bender; Maryanne Campbell; Steve Douglass, Heritage; Wendy Garrett, Concerned citizen, Sue Lintz, E. Minnehaha; David Hentz, Fisher' Landing East; Ila Stanek, West Hazel Dell; Adrienne DeDona, City of Vancouver, Robert Sposili, Rose Village; Yoon Cho, Rose Village; George Vartanian, Fairgrounds; Jackie Emter, Ridgefield Junction; Kevin Snyder, City of Ridgefield, Lee Wells, Ridgefield Junction; Todd Horenstein, Vancouver School District; Mona Moyer, Pleasant Highlands; Bridget Schwarz, Fairgrounds; Bud Van Cleve, NE Hazel Dell; Susan Gilbert, Enterprise/Paradise Point; Steve Stuart, CC Commissioner; Mike Nolan, CC Sheriffs Office; Brian Snodgrass, Vancouver Long Range Planning.

The meeting began with an introduction by Doug Ballou, NACCC Chair.

Purpose of joint meeting: To share information about the Growth Management Plan, alternative plan scenarios and implications on future community livability across Clark County and its cities.

Bob Higbie of CC Long Range Planning gave a brief history of the GMA, adopted in 1994. The county began its update in 1999 and it took five years and ended in 2004. The new Board of Commissioners early this year opened it up for revision with the current study now being 31 square miles of expansion rather than 9 square miles. The county is working with cities on planning assumptions in an effort to scale back the present request for such a large expansion while, at the same time, realizing the need to adopt more industrial land. He encouraged everyone to attend the GMA meetings.

Brian Snodgrass of Vancouver Long Range Planning discussed the city's decision not to expand and rather, to concentrate on bringing businesses into the present growth boundary. He emphasized that the city and county are working together on this new update. He indicated that 200,000 people have settled in Clark County over the past 20 years and the Board of County Commissioners is using that same figure for the next 20 years. He said that schools and roads present the largest demand on municipalities and that added growth can be influenced by those municipalities.

Todd Horenstein of the Vancouver School District indicated in his presentation that a number of issues impact the VSD. He said that the younger population is going to shrink vs. overall population. Of the 22,000 kids in the Vancouver School District, 40% are living in poverty. And this will spread out from the core of the city. There are not enough tools in the GMA for cities outside Vancouver to take more densities and the BOCC cannot enforce that tenet. The VSD is strongly promoting family wage jobs. He also said that the Hazel Dell Sewer District is a key element in how growth will occur. He stressed that impact fees cover only

10% of the construction of schools. VSD does not believe in the concurrency system because it does not fund schools in a timely manner. Bonds and levies are the best way to fund schools but there is no way of knowing when or if levies will pass.

Anne McEnerny, member of the Vancouver Planning Commission told the audience that east Vancouver and west Vancouver receive different considerations. Those in the east get all the new roads, etc. while the west side does not get timely upgrades. She said that infill is not a plus for city dwellers as “grandma” houses get torn down on large lots and tightly compacted houses are put up in its place. She said that the city cleans up annexed county property and would like to see a joint planning commission but the BOCC has turned that down.

Kevin Snyder, Ridgefield Planner, indicated that they are asking for a 4,000-acre expansion and they are positioning the city to handle it. They have done an environmental study. They have involved the public with meetings throughout July and August. Ridgefield had 20% growth last year. There are 350,000 SF of new buildings under construction in Ridgefield. They have analyzed all the impacts very carefully. They plan to shift the transportation burden to private developers.

There then were presentations from several neighborhood leaders on their particular positioning with respect to the proposed growth update.

Bridget Schwarz of Friends of Clark County passed out the most recent FOCC newsletter and pointed out several of the facts that FOCC has researched on the detrimental aspects of out-of-control growth.

Ginger Metcalf of Identity Clark County shared the WSDOT 2005 partnership package project impacts for the county in a list of the projects and their funding. The total, as a result of the increased gas tax, of all the projects that would be completed will be \$243.114 million. The tax would be 9.5 cents spread over three years.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gilbert, Secretary

Doug Ballou, Chairman

Reviewed and Approved, September 21, 2005